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AUTHOR Gebert, Henriette D.; Lucas, John A.
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ABSTRACT

A follow-up study was conducted at William Rainey Harper College (WRHC) to evaluate the dietetic technician program and to obtain externally required information. Questionnaires were sent to all 79 of the students who had graduated from the program between 1975 and 1981. Study findings, based on responses from 67% of the program graduates, revealed that: (1) 59% of the respondents were employed full time and 79% were employed either full or part time; (2) 18% of those surveyed had some difficulty in obtaining employment; (3) the average salary of graduates was $12,643, which was significantly lower than the average salary of WRHC's career graduates as a whole; (4) 85% of the graduates were satisfied or very satisfied with their jobs; (5) respondents reported that they were well prepared for almost all of the tasks they performed on the job; (6) respondents found the dietetic technician program to be very relevant to the tasks required in the field; and (7) 24.5% of the graduates had continued their education at another institution since leaving WRHC, 13.2% had taken additional courses at WRHC, and 11.2% had participated in professional workshops or in-service training since graduation. The study report includes extensive data tables and the questionnaire. (HB)

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FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF DIETETIC TECHNICIAN GRADUATES 1975-1981

William Rainey Harper College
Office of Planning and Research

Henriette D. Gebert
Coordinator, Dietetic Technician Program

John A. Lucas
Director, Planning & Institutional Research

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William Rainey Harper College
Algonquin and Roselle Roads
Palatine, IL 60067

Operational Research Staff

Sherry Langford, Secretarial
Linda Pones, Mailing, Tallying and Telephone Surveying
Alice Keenan, Mailing and Tallying

ABSTRACT

THE PURPOSE OF THIS FOLLOW-UP STUDY WAS PARTIALLY TO EVALUATE THE DIETETIC TECHNICIAN PROGRAM AND PARTIALLY TO OBTAIN EXTERNALLY REQUIRED INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM. ALL 79 GRADUATES OF THE PROGRAM FROM 1975 TO 1981 WERE INCLUDED IN THE STUDY. AFTER THE SURVEY INSTRUMENT WAS ORIGINALLY MAILED TO THEM, A FOLLOW-UP MAILING ENSUED AND THEN TELEPHONE CALLS PURSUED THOSE STILL NOT RESPONDING. WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE FOLLOW-UP CAMPAIGN, 67 PERCENT OF THE ORIGINAL TARGET POPULATION HAD RESPONDED.

RESULTS OF THE STUDY SHOWED THAT 59 PERCENT OF THE GRADUATES WERE EMPLOYED FULL TIME AND 79 PERCENT WERE EMPLOYED EITHER FULL OR PART TIME. ABOUT 18 PERCENT OF THOSE SURVEYED INDICATED THEY HAD SOME DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING EMPLOYMENT. AVERAGE SALARY ($12,643) FOR THESE (WOMEN) GRADUATES WAS LOWER THAN THE AVERAGE SALARY ($14,173) FOR ALL HARPER CAREER GRADUATES. THE VAST MAJORITY (85 PERCENT) OF THESE DIETETIC TECHNICIAN GRADUATES WERE WELL SATISFIED WITH THEIR JOBS. GRADUATES ALSO REPORTED BEING VERY WELL PREPARED FOR ALMOST ALL THE TASKS THEY PERFORMED AND THE DIETETIC TECHNICIAN PROGRAM APPEARED TO BE VERY RELEVANT TO THE TASKS REQUIRED IN THE FIELD.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Purpose..... 1

II. Population Surveyed..... 1

III. Method..... 1

IV. Conclusions..... 1

V. Detailed Results

A. Employment Status..... 4

B. Full-Time Employers..... 4

C. Part-Time Employers..... 5

D. Full-Time Job Titles..... 5

E. Part-Time Job Titles..... 6

F. Length of Service at Present Employment for Those Employed Full Time..... 6

G. Length of Service at Present Employment for Those Employed Part Time..... 6

H. Relatedness of Present Job to a Dietetic Technician..... 7

I. Annual Salary for Those Employed Full Time..... 7

J. Hourly Rates of Those Employed Part Time..... 8

K. Difficulty in Finding a Job - 1979 Survey..... 8

L. Difficulty in Finding a Job - 1981 Survey..... 9

M. Reason for Having Difficulty Finding a Job..... 9

N. How Former Students Found Jobs - 1979 Survey..... 9

O. How Former Students Found Jobs - 1981 Survey.....10

P. Degree to Which Job Matches Student Preparation.....10

Q. For Those Whose Present Job is Closely Related to a Dietetic Technician

1. Jobs Which Students Feel They are Prepared to do But Cannot do on Present Job - 1981 Survey.....10

2. Satisfaction on Present Job.....11

3. Involvement in Professional Activities - 1979 Survey..11

4. Involvement in Professional Activities - 1981 Survey..12

R. Degree to Which Students are Prepared for Various Job Responsibilities and Frequency These are Undertaken.....12

S. Continuation of Education.....16

T. Last College Attended After Leaving Harper.....16

U. Major Field at New College.....17

V. Workshop or In-Service Training Topics at New Place of Employment.....17

W. Additional Courses Taken at Harper After Graduating From Dietetic Technician Program - 1981 Survey Only.....17

VI. Appendix.....18

Follow-up Survey of Dietetic Technician Graduates.....19

Purpose

The purpose of this Dietetic Technician Graduates Follow-up study was partially to evaluate the Dietetic Technician Program and partially to obtain externally required information about the program. The study was requested by the Dietetic Technician Program Coordinator, Henriette Gebert.

Population Surveyed

All 79 graduates of the Dietetic Technician Program in the period from 1975 to 1981 were included in this study. After the initial mailing and the subsequent follow-up procedures, the following survey response rates were obtained from these graduates:

Response Situation	1979 Survey N	1979 Survey PCT	1981 Survey N	1981 Survey PCT
Returned survey by mail	32	68.1	53	67.1
Answered survey questions over the telephone	7	14.9	0	0
Total responses	39	83.0	53	67.1
Refused to answer	0	0	1	1.3
Original mailing returned non-forwardable	2	4.2	7	8.8
Unable to reach by telephone	4	8.5	18	22.8
Moved out-of-state - chose not to call long-distance	2	4.3	0	0
Total non-responses	8	17.0	26	32.9
Total target population	47	100.0	79	100.0

The 67 percent response rate for students away such a long period of time is very acceptable and insures against any response bias. Thus the responders should be very representative of the entire target population.

Method

The survey instrument shown in the appendix was developed jointly by the Coordinator of the Dietetic Technician Program, Henriette Gebert and the Office of Planning and Institutional Research. This instrument was mailed to all members of the target population along with the cover letter shown and a stamped return envelope. After three weeks another survey instrument was mailed to those not responding. After another three weeks those still not responding were telephoned and asked either to return the survey by mail or answer the questions over the telephone.

Conclusions

After graduating from the Dietetic Technician Program at Harper 59 percent were employed full time and a total of 79 percent were employed either full or part time. In terms of difficulty of finding employment some 4 percent are unemployed seeking employment while 13½ percent of those employed found their jobs with difficulty.

This is very similar to the situation in the 1979 survey. Thus about 17½ percent experience difficulty in finding employment. About 40 percent of those employed found their jobs either through the program Coordinator, Henriette Gebert or found their jobs by themselves.

The average salary of those (women) graduates employed full time was $12,643 which is up 20 percent over the 1979 survey, but 11 percent under the average of all career alumni in 1981. About 70 percent feel their jobs match their skills well and close to 85 percent are satisfied with their jobs. A high percentage (65 percent) belong to the American Dietary Association, but most of these are dues paying members. There is more active involvement in the local Dietetic Association.

Graduates of the program feel they are very well prepared in skills central to the core of the Dietetic Technician Program and in skills which are often performed. The only areas in which the graduates feel they were less than adequately prepared are peripheral skills (such as supervising, training, coordinating, purchasing and making physical measurements) which are seldom performed.

Since completing the AAS in Dietetic Technology, almost half of the graduates have continued their education at a number of colleges, and workshop opportunities. Some have continued to take additional courses at Harper. Nutrition and Dietetics are the subjects most often pursued.

Details of the results of this follow-up study are shown in the tables in the following section.

DETAILED RESULTS

FOLLOW-UP SURVEY OF DIETETIC TECHNICIAN GRADUATES

Employment Status	1979 Survey N	1979 Survey PCT	1981 Survey N	1981 Survey PCT
Employed full time	23	59.0	31	58.5
Employed part time	7	17.9	11	20.7
Not employed, but seeking employment	3	7.7	2	3.8
Not employed homemaker	5	12.8	5	9.4
Not employed other reasons	1	2.6	4	7.6
Total	39	100.0	53	100.0

Full-Time Employers - total of 31

Hospitals	N
Lutheran General	4
Suburban Medical Center	2
St. Joseph	2
Alexian Brothers Medical Center	1
Condell Memorial - Libertyville	1
Elmhurst Memorial	1
Swedish Medical Center - Seattle	1
Rush Presbyterian St. Luke's	1
Memorial Hospital of DuPage	1
V.A. Hospital - Hines	1
Total	15

Long Term Care and Senior Citizen Residences	
Lee Manor Nursing Home - Des Plaines	1
Friendship Village - Schaumburg	1
Carestoll Rehabilitiation and Long Term Care - McHenry	1
Lutheran Home and Services for the Aged - Arlington Heights	1
Total	4

Other Employers in Related Areas to Dietetic Technician	
Quaker Oats - Barrington	2
WIC Program - Lake County Health Department	1
United States Navy - Galley	1
Upjohn Health Care Services - Santa Cruz	1
Total	5

Other Employers in Unrelated Areas	
Technical Publishing Company	1
Mohawk Finishing Products	1
Total	2

Employers not specified 5

Part-Time Employers - total of 11

Hospitals and Health Centers	N
Suburban Medical Center	1
Alexian Brothers Medical Center	1
Northwest Community Hospital	1
American Health Care Center - Arlington Heights	1
Good Shepherd Professional Building	1
Total	5

Other Employers in Related Areas to Dietetic Technician	
Ascension Church	1
TGI Fridays Restaurant	1
Total	2

Other Employers in Unrelated Areas	
Harper College Public Safety	1
House of Brides	1
Total	2
Employers not specified	2

Full-Time Job Titles - total of 31

Dietetic Technician Identical Job Titles	N
Dietetic technician	16
Director of dietary services	1
Nutrition aide	1
Total	18

Job Titles Related to Dietetic Technician	
Food service supervisor	2
Sensory specialist	2
Food service worker	1
Project technician	1
Service coordinator	1
Food production supervisor	1
Total	8

Job Titles Unrelated to Dietetic Technician	
Reader service clerk	1
General office	1
Cash collection agent	1
Social activities director	1
Total	4
Job title not specified	1

Part-Time Job Titles - total of 11

Dietetic Technician Identical Job Titles	N
Dietetic technician	4
Job Titles Related to Dietetic Technician	
Food service worker	1
Rectory cook	1
Diet aide, cook	1
Total	3
Job Titles Unrelated to Dietetic Technician	
Police dispatcher	1
Bridal consultant	1
Total	2
Job titles not specified	2

Length of Service at Present Employment for Those Employed Full Time

Months of Service	N
96	1
54	1
48	1
43	1
39	1
36	4
28	1
24	4
23	2
19	1
14	1
13	1
10	2
9	1
8	1
7	1
6	1
5	1
4	1
3	1
1.5	1
Subtotal	29
Service not specified	2
Total	31
Median	23 months
Mean	24.3 months

Length of Service at Present Employment for Those Employed Part Time

Months of Service	N
39	1
36	1
32	1
15	1
9	1
5	2
4	1
3	1
Subtotal	9
Service not specified	2
Total	11
Median	9 months
Mean	16.4 months

Relatedness of Present Job to a Dietetic Technician

Degree of Relatedness	Relatedness	Full-Time Employees 1979 Survey N	Full-Time Employees 1979 Survey PCT	Full-Time Employees 1981 Survey N	Full-Time Employees 1981 Survey PCT	Part-Time Employees 1979 Survey N	Part-Time Employees 1979 Survey PCT	Part-Time Employees 1981 Survey N	Part-Time Employees 1981 Survey PCT	Total Employed 1979 Survey N	Total Employed 1979 Survey PCT	Total Employed 1981 Survey N	Total Employed 1981 Survey PCT
2	Identical	11	47.8	7	23.3	2	28.6	2	20.0	13	43.3	9	22.5
1	Related	6	26.1	14	46.7	3	42.8	3	30.0	9	30.0	17	42.5
0	Not related	6	26.1	9	30.0	2	28.6	5	50.0	8	26.7	14	35.0
Total		23	100.0	30	100.0	7	100.0	10	100.0	30	100.0	40	100.0
Mean degree of relatedness		1.22		.93		1.00		.70		1.17		.88	

Annual Salary for Those Employed Full Time

Salary Range	1979 Survey N	1979 Survey PCT	1981 Survey N	1981 Survey PCT
Under $5,000	1	4.8	0	0
$5,000 - $6,999	0	0	0	0
$7,000 - $7,999	0	0	1	3.6
$8,000 - $8,999	3	14.3	0	0
$9,000 - $9,999	4	19.0	2	7.1
$10,000 - $10,999	5	23.8	3	10.7
$11,000 - $11,999	3	14.3	2	7.1
$12,000 - $14,999	5	23.8	19	67.9
$15,000 - $18,000	0	0	1	3.6
Subtotal	21	100.0	28	100.0
No salary specified	2	9.1	3	9.7
Total	23		31	
Mean salary	$10,524	→ +20 percent →	$12,643	
Median Salary	$10,500	→ +24 percent →	$13,026	

Hourly Rates of Those Employed Part time

Hourly Rate	N
$7.35	1
$6.25	1
$6.00	1
$5.56	1
$5.00	1
$4.90	1
$4.10	1
$4.00	1
$3.90	1
Subtotal	9
Didn't specify	2
Total	11
Median	$5.00 per hour
Mean	$5.23 per hour

Difficulty in Finding a Job

	1979 Survey					
	F-T EMP		P-T EMP		Total EMP	
Difficulty Description	N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT
Had job lined up before graduation	7	30.4	1	20.0	8	28.6
Found job fairly easily after graduation	13	56.5	4	80.0	17	60.7
Found a job, but only with much difficulty	3	13.1	0	0	3	10.7
Subtotal	23	100.0	5	100.0	28	100.0
Didn't respond to item	0	0	2	28.6	2	6.7
Total	23		7		30	

Two of the part-time employees were seeking full-time employment in their field.

Difficulty in Finding a Job

Difficulty Description	1981 Survey F-T EMP N	F-T EMP PCT	P-T EMP N	P-T EMP PCT	Total EMP N	Total EMP PCT
Had job lined up before graduation	10	33.3	3	42.9	13	35.1
Found job fairly easily after graduation	16	53.4	3	42.8	19	51.4
Found a job, but only with much difficulty	4	13.3	1	14.3	5	13.5
Subtotal	30	100.0	7	100.0	37	100.0
Didn't respond to item	1	3.2	4	36.4	5	11.9
Total	31		11		42	

Reason for Having Difficulty Finding a Job	N
Not interested in jobs in Chicago	2
Not interested at this time in a nursing home job	1
Not interested at this time in a hospital job	1
No reason given	1
Total	5

How Former Students Found Jobs

Method	1979 Survey F-T EMP N	F-T EMP PCT	P-T EMP N	P-T EMP PCT	Total EMP N	Total EMP PCT
The coordinator, Mrs. Gebert helped	7	36.8	0	0	7	26.9
Found job by myself	4	21.0	3	42.8	7	26.9
Friend or relative helped	3	15.8	1	14.3	4	15.4
Newspaper ad or employer publication	2	10.5	1	14.3	3	11.5
Employer approached person	1	5.3	1	14.3	2	7.7
Employment agency	1	5.3	0	0	1	3.9
Had job already before graduation	1	5.3	0	0	1	3.9
Teacher at college now attending helped	0	0	1	14.3	1	3.8
Subtotal	19	100.0	7	100.0	26	100.0
Didn't respond to item	4	17.4	0	0	4	13.3
Total	23		7		30	

How Former Students Found Jobs

Method	1981 Survey F-T EMP N	F-T EMP PCT	P-T EMP N	P-T EMP PCT	Total EMP N	Total EMP PCT
The coordinator, Mrs. Gebert helped me	7	25.0	½	6.3	7½	20.8
Found job on their own	4	14.3	3	37.5	7	19.4
Newspaper ad	4	14.3	1	12.5	5	13.9
Clinical instructor or contact	2½	8.9	2½	31.2	5	13.9
Friend or relative	4½	16.1	0	0	4½	12.5
Was already working for employer when entered Harper	3	10.7	0	0	3	8.3
Placement service at another college	0	0	1	12.5	1	2.8
HIEFSS contact	1	3.6	0	0	1	2.8
ADA contact	1	3.6	0	0	1	2.8
Class assignment contact	1	3.5	0	0	1	2.8
Subtotal	28	100.0	8	100.0	36	100.0
Didn't respond to item	3		3		6	
Total	31		11		42	

Degree to Which Job Matches Student Preparation	For Those Whose Present Job is Closely Related to a Dietetic Technician: 1979 Survey N	1979 Survey PCT	1981 Survey N	1981 Survey PCT
Students feel job allows them to practice the skills for which they were prepared	14	77.8	17½	70.0
Students feel underemployed. They feel they are prepared to do more duties than they can do on present job	4	22.2	7½	30.0
Total	18	100.0	25	100.0

For Those Whose Present Job is Closely Related to a Dietetic Technician - 1981 Survey

Jobs Which Students Feel They are Prepared to do But Cannot do on Present Job

Check menus, do meal rounds, carry out simple diet instructions, visit diabetics, etc.

Counsel on a variety of diets.

Order and receive merchandise, modify menus, most office duties and patient diet instruction, etc.

Perform diet counseling and instructions only when there is time; otherwise, do diet clerk duties, because we need the help. Boss tries to let me do diet counseling as much as possible.

Jobs Which Students Feel They are Prepared to do But Cannot do on Present Job (continued)

More teaching skills could be used. Would like to teach diabetic education classes and do some part-time instructing.

Diet histories, calculating diet patterns, caloric counts, and some instruction.

Training was geared more to the diet office and working with patients. Am now doing only kitchen aide duties.

Satisfaction on Present Job	Satisfaction Index	For Those Whose Present Job is Closely Related to a Dietetic Technician: 1979 Survey N	1979 Survey PCT	1981 Survey N	1981 Survey PCT
Very satisfied	+2	11	57.9	9	34.6
Satisfied	+1	4	21.0	13	50.0
Bearable	0	3	15.8	3	11.5
Dissatisfied and looking for other employment	-1	1	5.3	1	3.9
Total		19	100.0	26	100.0
Mean satisfaction index		+1.32		+1.15	

For Those Whose Present Job is Closely Related to a Dietetic Technician

Involvement in Professional Activities - 1979 Survey

Professional Association	Active Member N	Active Member PCT	Pay Dues Only N	Pay Dues Only PCT	Applying for Membership N	Applying for Membership PCT	Not a Member N	Not a Member PCT	Total N	Total PCT
American Dietetic Association	4	17.4	8	34.8	4	17.4	7	30.4	23	100.0
Illinois Dietetic Association	1	4.3	4	17.4	0	0	18	78.3	23	100.0
Local Dietetic Association	1	4.3	0	0	0	0	22	95.7	23	100.0
HIEFSS - Hospital, Institutional and Educational Food Service Society	4	17.4	1	4.4	1	4.3	17	73.9	23	100.0

For Those Whose Present Job is Closely Related to a Dietetic Technician

Involvement in Professional Activities - 1981 Survey

Professional Association	Active Member N	Active Member PCT	Pay Dues Only N	Pay Dues Only PCT	Not a Member N	Not a Member PCT	Total N	Total PCT
American Dietetic Association	4	15.4	13	50.0	9	34.6	26	100.0
Local Dietetic Association	6	23.1	2	7.7	18	69.2	26	100.0
Illinois Dietetic Association	1	3.8	4	15.4	21	80.8	26	100.0
HIEFSS - Hospital, Institutional and Educational Food Service Society	3	11.5	0	0	23	88.5	26	100.0
HIEFSS - certified technician	3	11.5	0	0	23	88.5	26	100.0

Degree to Which Students are Prepared for Various Job Responsibilities and Frequency These are Undertaken

Responsibility	N	Degree of Preparedness*	Percent Inadequately Prepared	N	Degree of Frequency**	Percent Who Never Perform This Duty
Verifies implementation of nutrition prescription for individual clients	23	1.91	0	24	1.79	8.3
Evaluates acceptance of food - e.g. meal rounds	23	1.91	0	25	1.48	4.0
Obtains diet history and meal patterns	24	1.88	0	24	1.58	8.3
Maintains clients cardex from diet order sheets	24	1.79	0	25	1.68	12.0
Develops and adjusts a diet pattern for individual clients not at nutritional risk	23	1.78	0	23	1.57	13.0
Monitors and documents adherence to or tolerance of nutritional care	24	1.75	0	25	1.44	20.0
Monitors the outcome of nutritional care for these clients and documents in the medical record	24	1.75	0	25	1.08	40.0

Degree to Which Students are Prepared for Various Job Responsibilities and Frequency These are Undertaken (continued)

Responsibility	N	Degree of Preparedness*	Percent Inadequately Prepared	N	Degree of Frequency**	Percent Who Never Perform This Duty
Writes menu in accordance with diet pattern written by dietitian for clients at nutritional risk, and make appropriate substitutions in accordance with pattern	23	1.74	0	23	1.57	8.7
Obtains personal background data	23	1.74	0	23	1.39	17.4
Gathers laboratory data and medical history from chart	21	1.71	4.8	22	1.55	13.6
Calculates nutrient and energy values	22	1.68	0	23	1.30	17.4
Counsels individual clients not at nutritional risk concerning nutrition concepts and desired change in eating habits	24	1.67	0	26	1.12	23.1
Communicates plan for nutrition care to individual client or to family and documents in medical record	25	1.64	0	26	1.19	30.8
Develops nutrition care plan in consultation with a dietitian for individual clients not at nutritional risk	23	1.61	0	23	1.43	17.4
Revises nutrition care plan for individual clients not at nutritional risk and documents in the medical record	24	1.58	0	25	.96	32.0
Communicates plan to health team members and documents in the medical record	24	1.54	0	25	1.00	36.0

Degree to Which Students are Prepared for Various Job Responsibilities and Frequency These are Undertaken (continued)

Responsibility	N	Degree of Preparedness*	Percent Inadequately Prepared	N	Degree of Frequency**	Percent Who Never Perform This Duty
Contributes the nutrition related expertise to the health team discussions of clients health status	20	1.50	0	24	1.42	8.3
Gives classes and lectures in basic nutrition to small groups of clients	22	1.50	4.6	25	.52	56.0
Uses current knowledge to solve client's nutritional problems	23	1.48	0	25	1.64	12.0
Selects nutrition education materials - exhibits for clients not at nutritional risk	23	1.48	8.7	26	.88	38.5
Helps in assessment	22	1.45	14.3	23	1.26	30.4
Documents individual client's reponse to nutrition education	23	1.43	0	24	1.08	25.0
Provides technical support for implementing and maintaining nutrition education processess	24	1.38	12.5	26	1.00	34.6
Arranges for follow-up or terminates nutrition care of individual clients in consultation with a dietitian	20	1.35	0	23	1.22	30.4
Communicates to appropriate personnel such as pharmacy, food service, central supply, the specific actions to implement the care plan and documents in the medical record	21	1.33	4.8	23	.87	39.1
Meets with health team members to integrate nutrition care of clients	19	1.26	5.3	25	1.08	20.0

Degree to Which Students are Prepared for Various Job Responsibilities and Frequency These are Undertaken (continued)

Responsibility	N	Degree of Preparedness*	Percent Inadequately Prepared	N	Degree of Frequency**	Percent Who Never Perform This Duty
Assists in an ongoing program of quality assurance for client care and delivery of services to clients	20	1.25	10.0	24	1.04	33.3
Supervises and evaluates clerical personnel assigned to clinical dietetic functions	21	.95	23.8	25	.56	56.0
Implements orientation and training program for clinical dietetic personnel	18	.89	27.8	25	.48	64.0
Coordinates clinical dietetic activities with administrative dietetic activities	19	.84	26.3	23	.61	56.5
Utilizes established standards and procedures for purchasing food for modified diets	19	.84	31.6	24	.38	75.0
Measures mid-arm circumference, triceps skinfold, obtains height and weight	20	.60	50.0	23	.52	60.9

*Scale of degree of preparedness: 2 = very well prepared, 1 = adequately prepared, 0 = inadequately prepared

**Scale of degree of frequency: 2 = perform this duty often, 1 = perform this duty occasionally, 0 = never perform this duty

Continuation of Education	1979 Survey N	1979 Survey PCT	1981 Survey N	1981 Survey PCT
Graduates who have continued their education at another college since leaving Harper	11	28.2	13	24.5
Graduates who have taken professional workshops or in-service training since leaving Harper	2	5.1	6	11.3
Graduates of the Dietetic Technician Program who have taken additional courses at Harper	0	0	7	13.2
Graduates who have not continued their education since leaving Harper	26	66.7	27	51.0
Total	39	100.0	53	100.0

Last College Attended After Leaving Harper	1979 Survey N	1981 Survey N
Northern Illinois University	2	4
Mundelein College	1	1
Vitebro College	0	1
Northeastern Illinois University	1	1
Moberly Junior College	1	1
Elmhurst College	0	1
University of Illinois - Champaign	0	1
Virginia Polytechnic Institute	0	1
Triton	0	1
University of Illinois - Circle	0	1
Seattle Pacific University	1	0
University of Wisconsin - Whitewater	1	0
Rosary College	1	0
College of DuPage	1	0
Illinois State University	1	0
College of Lake County	1	0
Total	11	13

Major Field at New College	1979 Survey N	1981 Survey N
Nutrition	6	3½
Dietetics	0	2½
Food service sanitation	0	1
Nursing	0	1
Chemistry	0	½
Aging	0	½
Business	1	1½
Behavior modification	1	0
Art	1	1
Jewish history	1	½
A Cup program	0	1
English	1	0
Total	11	13

Workshop or In-Service Training Topics at New Place of Employment

1979 Survey

Medical in-service training

First aid review

1981 Survey

Northern Illinois HIEFSS Society seminars, workshops and ADA spring and fall workshops

ADA nutritional assessment

Activity workshops - Rockford - 36 hours taught by professionals in field

Lutheran General Hospital in-service topics, such as internal and parental products, diabetic counseling, ostomy care, drug and nutrient interaction, nutrition and cancer patients, renal patients, hyperalimentation nutritional assessment.

Lutheran General Hospital dietetic workshop

Hines Hospital - new diet changes

Additional Courses Taken at Harper After Graduating From Dietetic Technician Program

1981 Survey Only

Medical terminology - 2
Introduction to human disease (biology)
Assertive communication
Working toward an A.S. degree
Completed food service certificate
Chemistry, biology and mathematics
Management, philosophy and Spanish

APPENDIX

William Rainey Harper College
Algonquin and Roselle Roads
Palatine, Illinois 60067
312-397-3000

June 8, 1981

Dear Alumnus:

It is very important that you complete and return this questionnaire promptly.

To maintain approval status with the American Dietetic Association, it is necessary to have follow-up studies done on dietetic technician graduates.

Harper College, in turn, can utilize the survey results to help in improving the curriculum and course offerings of the dietetic technician program.

Dr. Lucas will forward the separate newsletter page to our office.

If you return the form right away we will be able to have sufficient news to bring out the Fourth Newsletter during the summer of 1981.

Our greetings to all.

Sincerely,

Henriette Gebert

Henriette Gebert,
Coordinator,
Dietetic Technician Program

HG/lmb

William Rainey Harper College
Algonquin and Roselle Roads
Palatine, Illinois 60067
312-397-3000

October 16, 1981

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Coordinator,
Dietetic Technician Program

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William Rainey Harper College
Algonquin and Roselle Roads
Palatine, Illinois 60067
312-397-3000

Dear Alumnus:

Please complete and return with your survey form.

Name_____

Address_____ Phone_____

_____

Are you employed? _____ Do you care to give any details for the newsletter?_____

_____

_____

ADA Member? Yes ( ) No ( )

Joined an ADA Practice Group? Yes ( ) No ( )

If YES, which one?_____

HIEFSS Member? Yes ( ) No ( )

HIEFSS Certified Member that is a CT? Yes ( ) No ( )

Local Dietetic Association? Yes ( ) No ( )

If YES, which one?_____

Are you a committee member of any professional association?

_____

_____

_____

Now for the really interesting news about yourself. Engaged? Married? Children? Grandchildren? Taken any interesting trips? Won any quiz shows?_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Thanks so much!

Henriette Gebert

Henriette Gebert

FOLLOW-UP SURVEY OF DIETETIC TECHNICIAN GRADUATES

1. Present employment status. Check (√) one.

____A. Employed full time.
____B. Employed part time.
____C. Not employed but seeking employment.
____D. Not employed - homemaker.
____E. Not employed - other reasons.

2. Describe any college courses, continuing education or in-service training since leaving Harper.

College or Institution	Describe major field, type of continuing education or in-service training.

(If you are not employed, you may stop here and return survey form)

3. Give name and address of employer.

_____

_____

4. Give your job title.

_____

5. How many months have you been employed with this employer at this job? _____

6. What is your annual salary if you work full time? Check (√) one.

____A. $7,000 - $7,999
____B. $8,000 - $8,999
____C. $9,000 - $9,999
____D. $10,000 - $10,999
____E. $11,000 - $11,999
____F. $12,000 - $15,000
____G. $15,000 - $18,000
____H. over $18,000

If you work part time, what is your hourly rate? $_____per hour

7. How did you find your present job? Check (√) one.

____A. The Coordinator, Mrs. Gebert, helped me.
____B. Mrs. _____ Clinical Instructor helped me.
____C. A contact made in the clinical lab courses helped me get my job.
____D. Other (specify)_____

_____

8. How difficult was it for you to find a job? Check (✓) one.

____A. I had my job lined up before I graduated.
____B. I found my job fairly easily after graduation.
____C. I found a job, but only with much difficulty.

If you checked C answer the next question.

9. ____A. I am married and unable to relocate.
____B. I do not live within commuting distance of a hospital or other health care agency where there are jobs.
____C. I am not interested at this time in a hospital job.
____D. I am not interested at this time in a nursing home job.
____E. I am not interested in jobs in Chicago.

10. How related is your employment to a dietetic technician's duties? Check (✓) one.

____A. It is identical.
____B. It is closely related.
____C. It is not related.

(If your work is not related to a dietetic technician, you may stop here and return the survey.)

11. Do you feel your job matches what you were prepared to do? Check (✓) one.

____A. Yes, I feel my job allows me to practice the skills I was prepared for.
____B. No, I feel underemployed. I feel I am well prepared to perform the following duties which I cannot do on my present job. (Specify)_____

_____

_____

_____

12. How satisfied are you on your job? Check (✓) one.

____A. I am very satisfied.
____B. I am satisfied.
____C. It is bearable.
____D. I am dissatisfied and am looking for other employment.

13. What are your activities in professional associations? Check the appropriate activity for each.

Association	Am an Active member	Pay dues only	Am not a member
American Dietetic Association	_____	____	_____
State Dietetic Association	_____	____	_____
Local Dietetic Association	_____	____	_____
HIEFSS - Hospital, Institutional and Educational Food Service Society	_____	____	_____
HIEFSS - Certified Technician	_____	____	_____

14. Look over the following responsibilities appropriate for entry-level clinical dietetic technicians and check (✓) what duties you perform; and check (✓) how well you feel William Rainey Harper College prepared you in each area.

Never perform this duty.	Perform this duty occasionally.	Perform this duty often.		Very well prepared in this area.	Adequately prepared in this area.	Inadequately prepared for this.
			Assists in gathering nutritionally relevant data for nutritional assessment 1. Obtains diet history & meal patterns			
			2. Lab data and medical history from chart			
			3. Measures mid-arm circumference , triceps skinfold, obtains height & weight.			
			4. Obtains personal background data.			
			5. Calculates nutrient & energy values.			
			6. Helps in assessment.			
			NUTRITION CARE PLANNING 1. Develops nutrition care plan in consultation with a dietitian for individual patients/clients not at nutritional risk.			
			2. Develops and adjusts a diet pattern for individual patients/clients not at nutrition risk.			
			3. Writes menu in accordance with diet pattern written by dietitian for clients/patients at nutrition risk, and makes appropriate substitutions in accordance with pattern.			

	FREQUENCY			PREPARATION		
	NEVER	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	VERY WELL	ADEQUATE	INADEQUATE
NUTRITION CARE IMPLEMENTATION - DELEGATED ASPECTS						
1. Communicates plan for nutrition care to individual client/patient or to patient's family and documents in the medical record.						
2. Communicates plan to health team members and documents in the medical record.						
3. Communicates to appropriate personnel such as pharmacy, foodservice, central supply, the specific actions to implement the care plan and documents in the medical record.						
4. Maintains client/patient cardex from diet order sheets.						
5. Verifies implementation of nutrition prescription for individual clients/patients (e.g. checking menus, diet orders, trays, nourishments).						
NUTRITION CARE EVALUATION-FOR THOSE NOT AT NUTRITION RISK						
1. Monitors and documents adherence to or tolerance of nutrition care (e.g. low calorie diet)						
2. Evaluates acceptance of food e.g. meal rounds.						
3. Monitors the outcomes of nutrition care for these clients/patients and documents in the medical record.						
4. Revises nutrition care plan for individual clients/patients not at nutrition risk and documents in the medical record.						
NUTRITION EDUCATION AND REFERRAL						
1. Selects nutrition education materials/exhibits for clients/patients not at nutrition risk.						
2. Provides technical support for implementing and maintaining nutrition education processes(e.g. maintains files of materials for dissemination)						
3. Counsels individual clients/patients not at nutrition risk concerning nutrition concepts and desired change in eating habits.						
4. Gives classes and lectures in basic nutrition to small groups of clients/patients.						

	FREQUENCY			PREPARATION		
	NEVER	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	VERY WELL	ADEQUATE	INADEQUATE
NUTRITION EDUCATION AND REFERRAL- cont'd						
5. Documents individual client's/patient's response to nutrition education.						
6. Arranges for follow up or terminates nutrition care of individual clients/patients in consultation with a dietitian.						
PROFESSIONAL/EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY AND DEVELOPMENT ACQUIRES CURRENT KNOWLEDGE: MAINTAINS STANDARDS IN TECHNICAL DIETETIC PRACTICE						
1. Uses current knowledge to solve client's/patient's nutrition problems.						
HEALTH TEAM FUNCTIONS						
1. Contributes the nutrition-related expertise to the health team discussions of clients/patients health status						
2. Meets with health team members(e.g. physicians, nurses, pharmacists, social workers) to integrate nutrition care of clients/patients.						
3. Coordinates clinical dietetic activities with administrative dietetic activities.						
FOOD PROCUREMENT,PRODUCTION, AND SERVICE						
1. Utilizes established standards and procedures for purchasing food for modified diets.						
STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT						
1. Assists in an ongoing program of quality assurance for patient care and delivery of services to clients/ patients.						
2. Implements orientation and training program for clinical dietetic personnel.						
3. Supervises and evaluates clerical personnel assigned to clinical dietetic functions (e,g. for productivity, quality, integrity)						

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96 Powell Library Building
University of California
Los Angeles, California 90024

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